

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5869

To authorize additional resources to identify and eliminate illicit sources of firearms smuggled into Mexico for use by violent drug trafficking organizations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. REYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize additional resources to identify and eliminate illicit sources of firearms smuggled into Mexico for use by violent drug trafficking organizations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Southwest Border Vio-
5 lence Reduction Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROJECT GUNRUNNER.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall dedi-
3 cate and expand the resources provided for the Project
4 Gunrunner initiative of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
5 Firearms, and Explosives to identify, investigate, and
6 prosecute individuals involved in the trafficking of fire-
7 arms across the international border between the United
8 States and Mexico.

9 (b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this section, the At-
10 torney General shall—

11 (1) assign additional agents of the Bureau of
12 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to the
13 area of the United States adjacent to the inter-
14 national border between the United States and Mex-
15 ico to support the expansion of Project Gunrunner;

16 (2) establish not fewer than 1 Project Gun-
17 runner team in each State along the international
18 border between the United States and Mexico; and

19 (3) coordinate with the heads of other relevant
20 Federal law enforcement agencies and State and
21 local law enforcement agencies to address firearms
22 trafficking in a comprehensive manner.

23 (c) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The Attorney General may
24 hire additional persons to be Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
25 Firearms, and Explosives agents for, and may use such

1 other resources as may be necessary to adequately sup-
2 port, Project Gunrunner.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 for each
5 of fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to carry out this section.

6 **SEC. 3. ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, in coopera-
8 tion with the Secretary of State, shall—

9 (1) assign agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, To-
10 bacco, Firearms, and Explosives to the United
11 States mission in Mexico, specifically in areas adja-
12 cent to the international border, to work with Mexi-
13 can law enforcement agencies in conducting inves-
14 tigation relating to firearms trafficking and other
15 criminal enterprises;

16 (2) provide the equipment and technological re-
17 sources necessary to support investigations and to
18 trace firearms recovered in Mexico; and

19 (3) support the training of vetted Mexican law
20 enforcement officers in serial number restoration
21 techniques and canine explosive detection.

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated \$9,500,000 for each of
24 fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to carry out this section.

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